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# Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2716

**AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS HIT RECORD HIGH** -- Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced (May 31) that U.S. agricultural exports are projected to reach a record high of \$51.5 billion in fiscal year 1995 (Oct. 1994-Sept. 1995). The latest USDA forecast reflects an upward revision of \$3 billion since a February forecast. If realized, the fiscal 1995 projection would represent a significant increase over the export level of \$43.5 billion recorded in fiscal 1994. Secretary Glickman said, "This record represents a tremendous achievement for U.S. agriculture across the board, from the farm gate to those employed in our processing and export industries. All categories of U.S. agricultural products are recording large gains at the same time." Glickman added, "While overseas sales of consumer foods and semi-processed products continue to grow impressively, the new export numbers also reflect a continued surge in our exports of bulk commodities as well."

**NEW CROP PLANTING DATES** -- To help farmers plagued with wet fields and delayed spring planting, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has relaxed the final planting dates for the 1995 crop year in affected areas. Final planting date for corn is June 5 for all states in the region, with an additional 25 days (June 30) to plant with reduced insurance guarantees. States affected are Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Farmers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office for more details. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**COUNTY PRICE SUPPORT RATES ANNOUNCED** -- Loan and purchase rates for each county are available in local Farm Service Agency offices. USDA has announced the latest county price support loan and purchase rates for 1995 crop corn, grain sorghum and soybeans. Determined in accordance with the amended Agricultural Act of 1949, rates reflect changes in the national average price support rates. Some county rates were adjusted to reflect location and transportation costs. Except for soybeans, adjusted rates are limited to a three percent change from 1994 levels. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**USDA REMEMBERS EMPLOYEES KILLED IN OKLAHOMA** -- Seven employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture were among those killed in the explosion of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman took part in a memorial service to remember USDA workers from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service who died on April 19, 1995. Three APHIS employees who survived the blast were present to pay tribute to co-workers Olen Bloomer, James Everett Boles, Margaret Louise Clark, Richard Leroy Cummins, Doris Adele Higginbottom, Carol Sue Khalil and Rheta Long. Glickman said, "We are here...to honor seven fallen colleagues, seven public servants, seven true patriots, men and women who made contributions to their country -- contributions which ultimately cost them their lives. Their deaths were senseless and inexplicable. But they will live on in our memories for the work they did and the family and friends they left." Glickman added, "We mourn their passing. We will miss them and their country will miss them." **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

**MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS FOR 1995** -- Allocations of \$85.3 million were made under the Market Promotion Program (MPP) for Fiscal Year 1995. The Department of Agriculture allocated the funds for use by 63 U.S. nonprofit commodity groups and regional trade organizations for promotion and market expansion of agricultural products in foreign markets. Administered by USDA, MPP helps U.S. producers, exporters and trade organizations promote U.S. agricultural exports. **Contact:** Donald Washington (202) 720-2375.

**NEW UNDER SECRETARY** -- In a unanimous decision, the Senate voted to confirm Dr. Karl Stauber as the new Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This newly created position combines the former position of Assistant Secretary for Science and Education with the Assistant Secretary of Economics. Dr. Stauber will manage USDA's science, technology and education activities relating to food and agriculture. Prior to joining USDA, Stauber served as the Vice President of the Northwest Area Foundation in St. Paul, Minnesota. **Contact:** Maria Bynum (202) 720-5192.

**NEW FEES FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES** -- To help cover the rising cost of carrying out federal animal quarantine laws, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing an increase in user fees for the program. USDA provides services facilitating the import and export of birds, animals and animal products and byproducts. The 1990 Farm Bill authorized the collection of fees to reimburse the U.S. government for the cost of carrying out the provisions of the law. That makes it possible to endorse export certificates for animals, provide quarantine services for imported animals, conduct veterinary inspections outside the U.S. and provide some veterinary diagnostic services. To comment on the proposed fee increase, send responses by July 25 to: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD, 20737-1238. **Contact:** Kendra Pratt (301) 734-6573.

**HOW MUCH WOOD WOULD WE NEED?** -- A changing national and world economy is affecting the way wood is being imported. That is in turn increasing the risk of introducing plant pests into the United States. That's how Alfred Elder sees it. He's the acting deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine at the Department of Agriculture. Elder says changing importation patterns call for comprehensive regulations on importing unmanufactured wood articles like logs, lumber, bark chips, wood chips and some wood packing materials. These new rules become effective August 23, 1995. **Contact:** Anne Sutton (301) 734-7255.

**QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE FEES NEED ADJUSTING** -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing an adjustment in their fee schedule -- lowering inspection fees for aircraft and raising export certification fees for plant products. The change would reflect the actual cost of providing these services. Services include inspecting aircraft arriving into the United States to make sure they aren't carrying any harmful exotic pests or animal diseases and issuing certificates accompanying exports of plants and plant products to certify they are free of plant pests. **Contact:** Ed Curlett (301) 436-3256.

**ELISA TEST ADDED TO THE LIST** -- The gpl Elisa test has been added to the list of official tests approved for use to eradicate pseudorabies. This move relieves some of the restrictions on the interstate movement of swine given gene-altered pseudorabies vaccines. Previously, vaccinated swine that were not from qualified-negative gene-altered herds could not be moved across state lines unless they were shipped directly to slaughter or quarantined herd or feedlot. **Contact:** Kendra Pratt (301) 734-6573.

## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA #1983** -- The new Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics is in place at the Department of Agriculture. In this edition of Agriculture USA, Lori Spiczka talks with Dr. Karl Stauber. (Weekly 5:00 documentary feature).

**CONSUMER TIME #1458** -- Terminating termites. Help for kids at risk. Research has a major role in the 1995 farm bill. Managing severe stress. Grilling summer foods safely. (Weekly consumer features).

**AGRITAPE FEATURES #1970** -- Wheat in the 1995 farm bill. The latest U.S. agricultural export figures. A new approach to farm pollution programs. The latest word on herd management. Delayed crop planting shifts crop calendar and crop planting plans. (Weekly agriculture features).

**UPCOMING ON USDA'S RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Tuesday, June 6, weekly weather and crops. Friday, June 9, world supply and demand for cotton. Monday, June 12, world agricultural supply and demand; cotton and wool outlook. Tuesday, June 13, feed update; oil crops outlook; rice outlook; wheat outlook; world markets and trade for grains and oilseeds; weekly weather and crops. Thursday, June 15, milk production. Friday, June 16, cattle on feed. **These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or (202) 720-8359  
COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545  
Material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.**

## FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

**FEATURES** -- Lynn Wyvill reports on the Wetlands Reserve Program sign-up and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance program.

**ACTUALITIES** -- Tim Galvin, associate administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service; Ken Ackerman, acting deputy administrator, Consolidated Farm Service Agency, on acreage reporting requirements for crop insurance. Norton Strommen, USDA chief meteorologist, on the latest crop and weather developments.

**UPCOMING FEATURES** -- Lynn Wyvill reports on the most common food safety mistakes during the summer.

## SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

Thursday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 302, C-band, Channel 6 (Transponder 3H), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3820 MHz. Monday, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET, Galaxy 4, Channel 12 (C-band), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3940 MHz.

**Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry A. Quinn at (202)720-6072 or 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 202050-1300.**

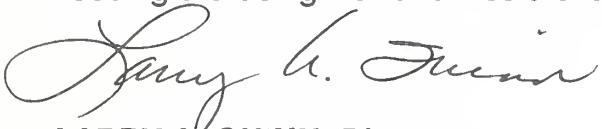
## OFF MIKE

**FIRST DAY OVER 100...**degrees was recorded in Yuma, AZ, this week which is much later than normal, says **George Gatley** (Western Agri-Radio Networks). Usually, the temperature breaks the century mark by early April. Fruit and vegetable yields were lowered by spring warming followed by cooler than normal temperatures, but Arizona farmers are growing a lot of cotton this year due to heavy world demand. George has resigned from KBLU Radio after 18 years to affiliate with KEZC in Yuma. He continues to use our USDA TV features on his daily, early morning show on KSWT-TV.

**EARLY HARVEST...**is anticipated in the Northwest for fruit crops like cherries, reports **Gary Claus** (Northwest Ag News Network, Newberg, OR). Strawberry harvesting begins next week. Key environmental concerns are on the minds of their listeners with public hearings underway on the Endangered Species Act, discussion of salvage timber harvesting, and interest in the Clean Water Act, livestock grazing on public lands and pesticide regulations.

**TWIN CITY SWITCH...**is underway by **Tom Rothman** (Minnesota Farm Network) who is moving from St. Paul to new facilities in downtown Minneapolis. Aside from living out of boxes, Tom reports that Minnesota farmers are getting back into their fields to finish planting due to great weather. In spite of late planting, corn and soybeans are almost on schedule, but spring wheat and barley are a real concern. Some farmers are planting sunflowers as an alternative.

**OVER A MILLION ACRES...**of North Dakota farmland will not be planted this spring due to wet weather, reports **Mike Hergert** (KKXL, Grand Forks, ND). About 3/4 of those 1.1 million acres would have been planted to small grains. Mike says this is the latest spring wheat planting since 1974. Good weather lately spurred farmers' progress in completing planting. Only some soybeans, sunflowers and other row crops remain to be planted. Ironically, farmers without flooding are doing well and would even like a little rain, but they aren't saying that out loud.



**LARRY A. QUINN**, Director  
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center

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